

06/02/00
JC833 U.S. PTO

06-05-00
LAW OFFICES
BARRY R. LIPSITZ
BRADFORD GREEN, BUILDING 8
755 MAIN STREET
MONROE, CONNECTICUT 06468

PATENTS, TRADEMARKS, COPYRIGHTS

TELEPHONE: (203) 459-0200
FAX: (203) 459-0201

BARRY R. LIPSITZ
RALPH F. HOPPIN
DOUGLAS M. McALLISTER

JC759 U.S. PTO
09/586064
06/02/00

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b)**

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of:

Inventor(s): **George T. HUTCHINGS, et al.**

Title: **A SYSTEM TO DELIVER ENCRYPTED ACCESS CONTROL INFORMATION
TO SUPPORT INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN DIGITAL INFORMATION
PROCESSING/CONTROL EQUIPMENT**

APPLICATION ELEMENTS:

- (1) ☒ Patent Application Specification, including Abstract and claims - 32 pages
(2) ☒ Six (6) sheets of formal drawings, together with transmittal letter
(3) ☒ A check in the amount of \$914.00 to cover the ☒ filing fee (\$834.00) and/or
☒ Assignment Recordal Fee (\$80) is enclosed.

☐ Before calculating the fee, cancel claim(s)

☐ Before calculating the fee, see copy of Preliminary Amendment filed.

Basic Fee							\$690.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (\$260.)							0
Foreign Language Surcharge (\$130.)							0
	For	No. Filed	-	No. Extra		Rate	0
EXTRA	Total Claims	28	20	8	X	\$18.	= 144.00
CLAIMS	Independent Claims	2	3	0	X	\$78.	= 0
TOTAL FILING FEE							= \$834.00

- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the payment of the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0625.

Box Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
Page 2

- (4) ☒ Two (2) Declaration and Power of Attorney forms – one signed by inventors HUTCHINGS, VINCE, DiCOLLI and DePIETRO-- 3 pages; one signed by inventor SPRUNK – 3 pages.
- a. ☒ Newly executed
 - b. ☐ Copy from a prior application
 - c. ☐ Deletion of inventor(s) – signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application.
- (5) ☐ Small Entity Declaration
- a. ☐ Newly executed
 - b. ☐ Copy from a prior application. Status still proper and desired.

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS:

- (6) ☒ Two (2) Assignment documents – one signed by inventors HUTCHINGS, VINCE, DiCOLLI and DePIETRO-- 2 pages; one signed by inventor SPRUNK – 2 pages.
- a. ☒ Newly executed (with \$80.00 recordal fee for two Assignments) and separate transmittal Forms PTO-1595
 - b. ☐ Copy from a prior application
- (7) ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- (8) ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document, together with separate transmittal letter
- (9) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement, together with PTO Form 1449 and copies of cited references
- (10) ☒ Return receipt postage prepaid postcard
- (11) ☒ Express Mail Certificate (Mailing Label No. EL 632 259 362 US)
- (12) ☐ Other:
- a. ☐

- (13) [] If a **CONTINUING APPLICATION**, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP)
of prior application no.:
Prior application information:
Examiner: Group/Art Unit:
Status:

FOR CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPLICATIONS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under paragraph 4(b) above, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

- (14) [] Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

- (15) [X] **Correspondence address:**
Barry R. Lipsitz
Law Offices of Barry R. Lipsitz
755 Main Street, Building No. 8
Monroe, CT 06468
Telephone: (203) 459-0200

Respectfully submitted,



Barry R. Lipsitz
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 28,637
755 Main Street
Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 459-0200

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: GIC-599
Date: June 2, 2000

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HUTCHINGS, et al.

Application No.:

Filed: Herewith

Title: **A SYSTEM TO DELIVER ENCRYPTED ACCESS CONTROL INFORMATION TO
SUPPORT INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN DIGITAL INFORMATION
PROCESSING/CONTROL EQUIPMENT**



BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"Express Mail" Mailing Label No: **EL 632 259 362 US**

Date of Deposit: **June 2, 2000.**

I hereby certify that the attached:

- ☒ Check in the amount of \$914.00 (filing fee and Assignment recordal fee)
- ☒ Transmittal letter -- 3 pages
- ☒ Patent application specification, including Abstract and claims -- 32 pages
- ☒ Six (6) sheets of formal drawings, together with separate transmittal letter
- ☒ Declaration and Power of Attorney signed by applicants Hutchings, Vince, DiColli and DePietro
- ☒ Declaration and Power of Attorney signed by applicant Sprunk
- ☒ Assignment signed by applicants Hutchings, Vince, DiColli and DePietro, together with PTO Form 1595 -- 3 pages
- ☒ Assignment signed by applicant Sprunk, together with PTO Form 1595 -- 3 pages

are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to **BOX PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.**

Cathy Dunne

Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee

A handwritten signature of Cathy Dunne in cursive script.

Signature of person mailing paper or fee

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature of Barry R. Lipsitz in cursive script.

Barry R. Lipsitz
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 28,637
755 Main Street, Bldg. No. 8
Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 459-0200

Date: June 2, 2000
Attorney Docket No.: GIC-599

**A SYSTEM TO DELIVER ENCRYPTED ACCESS CONTROL INFORMATION
TO SUPPORT INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN DIGITAL INFORMATION
PROCESSING/CONTROL EQUIPMENT**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a system for
sharing conditional access data, such as control words,
between different conditional access systems. The CA
data is used to encrypt access-controlled data that is
subsequently decrypted and stored by an authorized
10 terminal. In one embodiment, the invention is used to
provide CA data at a cable television headend in
different formats to authorize corresponding groups of
terminals to access encrypted programming services.

 The following acronyms and terms are used:

15 ATM - Asynchronous Transfer Mode
 CA - Conditional Access
 CAP - Conditional Access Provider
 CPU - Central Processing Unit
 CRC - Cyclic Redundancy Check
20 CW - Control Word
 DES - Data Encryption Standard
 DS - Data Stream
 ECM - Entitlement Control Message
 EMM - Entitlement Management Message
25 IP - Internet Protocol
 LAN - Local Area Network
 MMDS - Multichannel Multipoint Distribution System
 MPEG - Moving Picture Experts Group
 OOB - Out-of-band

P - program/content identifier or descriptor

PAT - Program Association Table

PC - Personal Computer

PID - Packet Identifier

5 PMT - Program Map Table

QAM - Quadrature Amplitude Modulation

SAT - Satellite

SONET - Synchronous Optical NETWORK

STA - Subscriber Terminal Authorization

10 T - Time

TCP - Transmission Control Protocol

UDP - User Datagram Protocol

VOD - Video On Demand

Access to data that is provided to subscriber
 15 terminals must be strictly controlled to maintain the
 economic viability of subscriber networks, such as cable
 television networks. Accordingly, various schemes have
 been developed to encrypt the delivered data, e.g.,
 using encryption schemes such as DES, and to provide
 20 associated CA data only to specific authorized
 terminals. Typically, the data is encrypted according
 to one or more cryptographic keys, and the CA data
 allows the authorized terminals to recover the key(s) to
 decrypt the data. Moreover, the encryption keys may
 25 change often, such as every second or faster.

To promote competition among suppliers, network
 operators and others often use terminals from different
 sources. The different sources (or even different
 models from the same source) typically require the CA
 30 data to be in a specified format due to their use of
 proprietary access control schemes. However,
 interoperability among the different terminals must also

be assured. Moreover, the provisioning of CA data in the different formats must be carefully synchronized, and must account for factors such as cryptographic processing time, frequency of key changes (e.g., length of crypto-periods), initialization considerations, and so forth.

Accordingly, it would be desirable to provide a system for delivering CA data in compatible formats for different types of terminals in a network that addresses the above and other concerns. The system should allow equipment from two or more CA providers to communicate with one another, e.g., at a common headend, to synchronize the delivery of the corresponding CA data.

The system should be useful in any network that carries CA data, including a television network (including satellite, cable, fiber, hybrid fiber-coax, MMDS or other terrestrial broadcast networks), and computer networks, including multicast-IP and ATM networks.

The system should deliver CA data, such as control words used for encryption, from a primary (master) CAP, which controls encryption, to one or more secondary CAPs. The CA data should be delivered to the secondary CAPs either in-band with the access-controlled programming services, or out-of-band, e.g., via a separate network, such as one using the Ethernet standard.

The CA data should be delivered to the secondary CAPs with a sufficient lead time that is based, e.g., on a processing time requirement of the secondary CAPs.

The system should avoid the need for the secondary CAPs to request the CA data from the primary CAP.

Optionally, the system should allow delivery of the
5 CA data to the secondary CAPs well ahead of time for
later use, e.g., when the content is pre-encrypted and
stored, then subsequently provided to a user terminal,
such as in a video on demand service.

The system should be usable in any packet-based information delivery system that requires shared CA data, including, e.g., SONET, ATM, IP and MPEG networks.

15 above and other advantages.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a system for sharing CA data among any number of CA providers.

5 A system is presented for streaming encrypted control words and associated timing and program data from a primary (master) conditional access provider (CAP) to one or more secondary CAPs. There is no need for the secondary CAPs to request the control words on an as-needed basis. Hence, CA system scaling is
10 superior to the request/response scheme that is typical of current practice, since a continuous stream of CA data for a current crypto-period and a number of future crypto-periods are provided in a "sliding window" to allow the secondary CAPs to begin preparing their
15 respective CA data in advance. The invention can be used in any packet-based distribution system, including a broadband television network headend. The invention enables any number of conditional access providers (CAPs) to provide CA data in an associated format for at
20 least one service (such as a television channel) of a data stream.

A particular method for enabling a primary conditional access provider (CAP) and at least one secondary CAP to provide conditional access (CA) data in
25 respective different formats to control access to at least one data service includes the step of: (a) providing, at the primary CAP, first CA data in a first format for encrypting the at least one data service during a plurality of successive crypto-periods, and
30 time data for identifying the successive crypto-periods.

The first CA data and the time data are provided from the primary CAP to the at least one secondary CAP.

5 The at least one secondary CAP is responsive to the first CA data and time data for providing second CA data in a different, second format for the successive crypto-
periods. A data stream is provided that includes the at least one encrypted data service and first and second CA data to user terminals, including at least a first user
10 terminal that is compatible with the first CA data, and a second user terminal that is compatible with the second CA data.

A corresponding apparatus is also presented.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates an architecture where CA data is distributed out-of-band from encrypted program data in accordance with the present invention.

5 FIG. 2 illustrates an architecture where CA data is distributed in-band with encrypted program data in accordance with the present invention.

10 FIG. 3 illustrates the insertion of program (P), control word (CW) and timing data (T) into packets during successive crypto-periods in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 4 illustrates a cable television headend architecture in accordance with the present invention.

15 FIG. 5 illustrates a CAP-1 module configuration and signal flow in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 6 illustrates a CAP-1 module configuration and signal flow with Packet Identifier (PID) filtering in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a system for sharing access control data between different CA systems, including, but not limited to, CA data such as control words, timing information to identify time periods of a program during which the control words apply, and, when needed, program content identifiers for associating the program with the control words and timing information.

In a specific embodiment, a constant stream of encrypted CWs are delivered to different CA systems in real-time. The CWs are used to encrypt a data stream for use by terminals with respective different CA formats.

Compared to current request/response protocols, the invention avoids the need for secondary CAPs to request the CWs from a first primary or master CAP.

FIG. 1 illustrates an architecture where CA data is distributed out-of-band from encrypted program data in accordance with the present invention.

Data (e.g., program data) is provided via an input subsystem to an encryption subsystem 105, where the data is encrypted according to a control word (CW) provided from a first (master) conditional access provider (CAP-1) 110. The encrypted program data is provided via a path 145 to a CA message insertion subsystem 150, which optionally includes CA message accumulation, sync and content playback subsystem 152 for a non-real-time CA data delivery embodiment. In this embodiment, the program data is pre-encrypted and stored, e.g., at a file server associated with the function 150, for

subsequent playback to the terminals. Additionally, the CA data is accumulated and synchronized with the program data. This arrangement may be used for a VOD system, for example.

5 CA data for encrypting the entire program, such as a movie, may be provided from the primary CAP to the secondary CAPs, prior to playback of the program to the terminals.

10 In a real-time embodiment, the entire amount of encrypted program data is not stored since the CA data from the primary CAP is used in essentially real-time by the secondary CAPs to prepare their CA data, and the CA data from all the CAPs is forwarded to the terminals with minimal delay.

15 Note that three CAPs are shown as an example, but the invention is applicable to two or more CAPs.

Control words or other CA data are provided for K successive crypto-periods, e.g., having indexes "N" through "N+K-1.". Thus, for example, the program data
20 corresponding to the crypto-period at a time T_N is encrypted by the encryption subsystem 105 using the control word CW_N . The time may be provided in any suitable format. For the real-time application, the time may be an absolute time, while for a non-real-time
25 application, the time may be a relative time, such as the time after the start of a movie, or the like.

A program identifier P is optionally provided to the encryption subsystem so that the appropriate program to which the CA data applies may be identified. A
30 separate identifier may not be required in some cases. For example, for MPEG-2 program data, the MPEG multiplex already identifies each program.

CAP-1 thus provides the P, CW, T data (in an encrypted form) for K crypto-periods to secondary CAPs, namely CAP-2 115 and CAP-3 120, via a network or networks 130. CAP-2 115 and CAP-3 120 use the CWs at the designated times, and for the designated program, to provide CA data (e.g., entitlement messages such as MPEG ECMS) to the message insertion subsystem 150, via a network or networks 140. In this embodiment, the network 140 is out-of-band from path 145. The message insertion subsystem 150 inserts the corresponding CA data into the data stream provided from the encryption subsystem 105, and outputs a corresponding stream via a delivery subsystem 155 to decryption subsystems associated with each of the CAPs.

For example, CAP decryption subsystems 160, 170 and 180 provide corresponding output data for subsequent conventional processing. The decryption subsystems 160, 170 and 180 may be, e.g., subscriber terminals at users' homes, or mobile wireless units (in the home or portable - such as personal digital assistants), etc, which are terminating points for a CA system flow.

While only three decryption subsystems are shown as an example, each subsystem may represent a group of terminals that are compatible with the associated CA format.

FIG. 2 illustrates an architecture where CA data is distributed in-band with encrypted program data in accordance with the present invention.

Like-numbered elements correspond to one another in the figures.

Here, the encrypted program data and CA data are in-band with one another on paths 210 and 230.

Specifically, the program data is provided to a CAP-1 message insertion subsystem and a data encryption subsystem 205. On path 210, (P,CW,T) data, which includes the encrypted data CAP-1 CA data (CW), are
5 provided to a CAP-2 message insertion subsystem 225, where CAP-2 CA data is provided based on the (P,CW,T) data. On path 230, the encrypted program data, CAP-1 CA data, CAP-2 CA data, and (P,CW,T) data are provided to a CAP-3 message insertion subsystem 245, where CAP-3 CA
10 data is provided based on the (P,CW,T) data. An optional CA message accumulation, sync, and content playback subsystem 252 for the non-real-time CA data delivery embodiment follows the CAP-3 message insertion function 245.

15 The encrypted program data and the CA data from each CAP are provided via a delivery subsystem 155 to the decryption subsystems 160, 170 and 180.

An interface key negotiation network 250 allows the CAP-2 subsystem 225 and CAP-3 subsystem 245 to interact
20 with the CAP-1 subsystem 205 to obtain data for decrypting the encrypted (P,CW,T) data.

FIG. 3 illustrates the insertion of program identifier (P), control word (CW) and timing data (T) into packets during successive crypto-periods in
25 accordance with the present invention.

A different CW is used to encrypt the program data during different crypto-periods. Moreover, the CAPs use the CWs to generate their corresponding CA data. Accordingly, the CWs must be provided to the secondary
30 CAPs prior to the time for usage thereat (i.e., with a sufficient lead time).

A number of successive CW epochs 300, 310, 320, 330, . . . 340, 350, 360, 370 are shown. An epoch is the time period, or crypto-period, during which a control word is valid.

5 A CW inserter associated with the CAP-1 function 110 or 205 is provisioned and active on-line to calculate CWs for the program data in advance of the CW's respective application time. For a multiplex of input program data, a CW is used for each program in the
10 multiplex. The lead time (number of crypto periods in advance) is limited based on the available data packet size, and chosen CW size. CWs may be provided at a rate of, e.g., one per second per programming service. In this case, the crypto-period is one second.

15 The CW inserter for the CAP-1 110, 205 encrypts the CWs per a defined algorithm, using a shared secret interface key, and inserts the CW with the time T at which the control word is to be used for encrypting the program data. In addition the (P,CW,T) values for K-1
20 periods into the future are provided in each packet.

For example, the packet 305 is provided from CAP-1 to CAP-2 and CAP-3 during crypto-period N (300). This packet 305 has a packet header, which may include the program identifier (P), followed by (CW, T) data for,
25 e.g., crypto-periods N through N+14, as indicated by the sliding window 390. CRC data may be provided at the end of the packet 305.

In practice, the packet 305 may be time-multiplexed with other packets, such as those containing program
30 data for various programs in a multiplex, and may be repeated several times in a single crypto-period. This

occurs since the packet rate corresponds to a period that is typically shorter than the crypto-period.

5 A packet 315 is provided from CAP-1 to CAP-2 and CAP-3 during the next crypto-period $N+1$ (310). This packet 315 also has a packet header with the program identifier (P), which is followed by (CW, T) data for crypto-periods $N+1$ through $N+15$, as illustrated by the sliding window 395, and CRC data.

10 Similarly, a packet 325 is provided during the next crypto-period $N+2$ (320). This packet 325 includes (CW, T) data for crypto-periods $N+2$ through $N+16$. The associated sliding window 397 follows the pattern of the windows 390 and 395. Additional packets are provide in the successive crypto-periods following the pattern of
15 packets 305, 315 and 325.

Advantageously, the secondary CAPs receive (P, CW, T) data in advance of the crypto-period in which the data is to be encrypted under a given CW. For example, the packet 305 provides CW data for epochs (crypto-
20 periods) up until epoch 340 (whose start time is T_{N+14}) during epoch 300 (whose start time is T_N). Thus, the CAPs have a several crypto-period lead time to generate their CA data under the appropriate CW. Accordingly, processing delays of each CAP can be accommodated.
25 Moreover, this scheme enables system initialization to proceed smoothly, enabling each secondary CAP to begin outputting its CA data at the earliest possible cryptoperiod. This is particularly important for real-time applications, where the CA data for the secondary
30 CAPs is generated just before it is communicated to the terminals.

For non-real-time applications, where the program data is pre-encrypted and stored for later playback, the specific delivery time for the (P, CW, T) data to the secondary CAPs is less critical. Typically, this data
5 can be provided well before the time it is needed.

For real-time applications, the sliding window size, or lookahead period, should be selected based on computational delays of the secondary CAPs, packet size, CW size, and the size (e.g., number of bytes) of the
10 timing parameter T. For a given packet payload, a larger CW requires a shorter window size. The sliding windows 390, 395, 397 represents the information contained within an individual packet assigned to a particular CAP using a packet identifier, and how the
15 data spans several crypto-periods into the future. For example, a given packet may contain fifteen successive (CW, T) pairs, assuming standard DES encryption is used, although any number of pairs may be used depending on the implementation. For a real-time application, the
20 (CW, T) data for crypto-period N is the current crypto-period, and the subsequent periods are future crypto-periods.

For a non-real-time application, the CA data of the primary and secondary CAPs is synchronized with the
25 portions of the program data to which the CA data applies. Thus, upon the playback (e.g., retrieval) of the program data, the CA data from each CAP is played back and provided in synchronism with the encrypted program data. In this case, the (T) data may designate
30 a crypto-period following some reference point of the program, such as the start of the program. The (T) data thus may designate a relative time rather than an

absolute time. Moreover, the (CW,T) data is accumulated and used by the secondary CAPs to prepare their CA data, which is subsequently stored for playback at the appropriate time with the encrypted program data. A
5 memory may be provided at subsystems 152 or 252 for this non-real-time embodiment.

FIG. 4 illustrates a cable television headend architecture in accordance with the present invention.

A digital cable television or other broadband
10 network headend 400 includes a CAP-1 controller 410 and a CAP-2 controller 455, which are configured to provide STAs (such as EMMs as known in the MPEG protocol) in respective different CA formats. For simplicity, only one secondary CAP is shown, although the invention may
15 be extended to any number of secondary CAPs.

Moreover, note that while an MPEG-specific example is discussed, the invention is generally applicable to any packetized data communication scheme.

The CAP-1 controller 410 generates encryption keys
20 according to an encryption scheme such as DES. The CAP-1 controller 410 also provides associated STAs to an OOB modulator 415, and the resulting modulated signal is provided to a headend combiner 435. Similarly, the CAP-2 controller provides STAs in a corresponding format to
25 an OOB modulator 450, and the resulting modulated signal is provided to the headend combiner 435. The headend combiner 435 outputs a signal to a terminal population via a conventional distribution network.

The CAP-1 controller 410 also provides control,
30 status and program control data (including the CWs) to a CAP-1 function 425, which includes a CA data encryptor and inserter, a program data encryptor, and a modulator.

The CAP-1 function 425 may be implemented, e.g., as module in a modular processing system. The CAP-1 function 425 can be configured with circuit cards for different functions, such as receiving a satellite
5 signal, decrypting and extracting data, and so forth.

The CAP-1 function 425 also receives a program data input, e.g., such as a satellite feed comprising video, audio, computer games and the like. This is the data that is to be access-controlled by the different CA
10 systems. Alternatively, or additionally, data may be provided from local programming sources or from a storage device. For example, for a VOD system, programming may be provided from a storage device in response to a subscriber request received via some
15 upstream, out-of-band channel.

The CAP-1 function 425 encrypts the input data stream according to the control, status and program control data to provide an encrypted output data stream "DS-out" containing encrypted in-band (CW, T) data to a
20 CAP-2 CA data inserter 440. The CAP-2 CA data may comprise MPEG ECMS, for example. The CAP-1 function 425 also inserts its own CA data (in the CAP-1 format) into DS-out on packets identified by associated packet identifiers for this implementation. Generally, the
25 secondary CAPs have no need for the CAP-1 CA data itself.

The CAP-2 CA data inserter 440 generates CA data at the appropriate crypto-period based on the received (P, CW, T) data, as discussed in connection with FIG. 3.
30 The CAP-2 CA data may be inserted into the same packet (in DS-in) in which the (CW, T) data was provided (in

DS-out). In this manner, the (CW, T) packet in DS-out acts as a "placeholder" packet for the CAP-2 CA data.

The CAP-1 function 425 receives DS-in, modulates it (e.g., using QAM modulation), and provides it to an optional upconverter 430. The corresponding upconverted signal is then provided to the headend combiner 435 for distribution, e.g., via a cable network to a terminal population.

In a specific example, DS-out conforms with the MPEG-2 or similar standard, and comprises a transport multiplex of, e.g., programs, and includes a PAT that lists PIDs that define each program. These are the PMT PIDs. The CAP-2 CA data inserter 440 comprises an analyzer that looks at the PAT, and finds the PID for a certain program, e.g., "HBO". The "HBO" data, in turn, includes a PMT that has PIDs that define, e.g., video data for HBO, one or more channel of audio data for HBO, and ECM PIDs for HBO. The ECM PIDs are conveyed using the MPEG construct "CA_descriptor" within each encrypted service. Thus, the (CW, T) data in DS-out are delivered in ECM placeholder packets under the ECM PIDs for CAP-2.

"CA_descriptor" indicates the location (PID value of transport packets) of ECM data associated with program elements when it is found in a TS PMT section. When found in a CA section, it refers to EMMs.

Note that (P) is not required for the example using MPEG because MPEG packet headers convey the PID of the packet, and thus the content to which the data refers. For the more general case, the CAP-1 function 425 provides the triple (P,CW,T).

The CAP-2 CA data inserter 440 recovers the encrypted (CW, T) data under these ECM PIDs, decrypts

the (CW, T) data, and forms its own ECMs using the CWs. Then, after accounting for network latency, and at the time specified by the T data, the CAP-2 ECMs overwrite the (CW, T) data with the CAP-2 ECM data under the same ECM PIDs as in the stream DS-in, which is then returned to the CAP-1 function 425.

The CAP-2 CA data inserter 440 may be responsive to interface key data received from the CAP-1 controller 410 via the router 420 using, e.g., a TCP/IP protocol. This key data may be used by the CAP-2 CA data inserter 440 to decrypt the encrypted (CW, T) data stream delivered on DS-out. Any shared key system may be used for this purpose. The router 420 acts as a firewall so that the CAP-2 system cannot recover other data from the CAP-1 system.

Different terminals are compatible with the different CA formats, e.g., from CAP-1 and CAP-2, and are programmed to recover the corresponding CA data that is present on the assigned PID, based on the STA (e.g., EMM) delivered separately to the terminals. For example, the program "HBO" may have CA data in the CAP-1 format on a corresponding PID (e.g., PID #160) in the transport stream, while the CA data in the CAP-2 format is provided on a different, corresponding PID (e.g., PID #170). Terminals that require different formats of CA data can therefore co-exist in the same network.

The number of encrypted (CW,T) pairs that can be inserted in a MPEG transport stream packet in DS-out depends on a number of factors, including the available packet payload, CW size, and duration of the crypto-period. Table 1 shows an example available payload.

Table 1 - Packet Payload Budget

	MPEG Packet size:	188 bytes
	header:	4 bytes
	CRC:	<u>4 bytes</u>
5	Available packet payload	180 bytes

The number of (CW, T) pairs that can be sent in the available packet payload can be calculated based on the size of the data elements. For a DES-based implementation, using an eight byte control word, and a four byte activation time, it is possible to insert fifteen (CW, T) pairs in the available packet payload (180 bytes). Similar calculations for a triple DES based encryption scheme (Table 2) show that five (CW, T) pairs may be loaded in the useable packet payload, thus providing the CWs for the current and next four crypto periods.

Table 2 - Packet Data Analysis

		<u>DES</u>	<u>Triple DES</u>
	CW size (bytes)	8	32
20	Net Payload--Private stream message (bytes)	180	180
	Time (bytes)	4	4
	CW lifetime (sec, with 1 CW/sec./service)	1	1
25	(CW, T) pairs per packet	15	5

By following this approach, a constant stream of valid CWs is provided from the CAP-1 function 425 to the CAP-2 CA data inserter 440.

The foregoing is an example only and the allocation of data in a packet can vary depending on the communication scheme used, e.g., such as Ethernet or ATM.

5 Although, in the example of FIG. 4, the control words and activation time are provided to the CAP-2 CA data inserter 440 by in-band packets, it is necessary to establish an additional communication link to enable the CAP-1 control word inserter (at function 425) to
10 communicate with the CAP-2 CA data inserter 440. To this end, an Ethernet link may be used to process link encryption set-up and interface key negotiation messages. For example, a Diffie-Hellman key exchange protocol, a public key algorithm, Secure Socket Layer,
15 or any other shared key arrangement, can support the interface encryption requirements. Furthermore, the same key can be used to encrypt all (CW,T) or (P,CW,T) packets on all CAP-2 CA PIDs within a multiplex, thus reducing computational requirements.

20 The interface key need not change frequently, perhaps every six or twelve hours, which leads to an extremely low data rate requirement on this interface. Hence, an Ethernet port on the CAP-1 function 425 and a CAP-2 network LAN connection may be used for
25 communication with the CAP-2 CA data inserter 440. The router 420 may be used to control network traffic between the CAP-1 and CAP-2 headend LANs, and to ensure that CAP-1 messages are not presented to the CAP-2 network, except for the messages addressed to the CAP-2
30 CA data inserter 440.

 The CAP-1 function 425 can be used to assign a destination address and TCP port for the CAP-2 CA data

inserter 440. A time-out mechanism is desirable to ensure that the CAP-2 CA data inserter 440 is active and on-line.

FIG. 5 illustrates a CAP-1 module configuration and signal flow in accordance with the present invention.

An example configuration of the CAP-1 function 425 is shown as modules that includes an L-band function 560 that receives the input data stream. A decrypt/extract function 562 decrypts and extracts the DS. A data encrypt function 564 re-encrypts the DS, e.g., according to the CAP-1 encryption scheme used by a local network provider. When the data stream is a transport stream (TS) that includes multiple services, each service of the TS (e.g., 10-12 services per TS) is encrypted using a different CW. Moreover, the CW for each service is used to form corresponding CAP-1 CA data. At a (P, CW, T) encrypt and insert function 566, the (P, CW, T) data is encrypted and inserted into the DS. Again, recall that the (P) data may not be required, but is shown for generality. The DS is provided as DS-out via an output interface 568 to the CAP-2 CA data inserter 440.

DS-in is returned to the CAP-1 function 425 via an input interface 570, and provided to a modulator 572. A system controller 574, such as a CPU, and a power supply are also included in the CAP-1 function 425. The system controller 574 communicates with the other functions in the CAP-1 function 425 via a path 575 to coordinate and oversee their activities.

Note that the modulator 572 can be provided wherever convenient. It is not required to be part of the CAP-1 function 425, but may be a separate device, or

may be associated with the CAP-2 CA data inserter 440, for example.

The CAP-1 function 425 may be modified to process multiple streams concurrently, in which case the output function 568 and input function 570 communicate with an additional secondary CAP inserter for each additional stream (e.g., a CAP-3 inserter for a 3rd stream, and so forth). An additional modulator analogous to the modulator 572 may be provided for each additional stream.

The CW encrypt and insert function 566 may be provided as a module (circuit board) that is inserted into the back plane of CAP-1 function 425, or provided as a stand-alone headend product.

The CW encrypt and insert function 566 may be commanded by a message protocol of the CAP-1 function 425 using known techniques.

Alternatively, it is possible for the CAP-1 CA data to be inserted into the DS after the CAP-2 CA data, but space would need to be reserved in advance (e.g., using packet placeholders) for most systems. In this case, a CAP-1 CA data inserter would be provided after the input 570.

FIG. 6 illustrates a CAP-1 module configuration and signal flow with Packet Identifier (PID) filtering in accordance with the present invention.

There is a concern that the CAP-2 CA data inserter 440 (or other secondary CAP data inserter) may somehow corrupt the data stream DS-out before returning it to a modified input interface 570' of the CAP-1 function 425'. Accordingly, there is a need to correct and detect this problem.

Here, in FIG. 2, a stream DS-out', which is a copy of DS-out, is retained by providing it from the output interface 568' to a buffer 605 that is associated with the input interface 570'. The input interface 570' also includes a combiner 610 and a packet filter 615. The packet filter (such as PID filter) 615 is established to pass only the CAP-2 CA data inserter's PIDs which are inserted into DS-in. At the combiner 610, the filtered data from the packet filter 610 is combined with the buffered data from the buffer 605. The buffer 605 is needed to temporarily store the data from DS-out' due primarily to processing delays associated with the CAP-2 CA data inserter 440.

Alternatively, a stream comparison module is developed to address the concern of corruption of the transport stream. The stream comparison module is based on a modified input interface, and constantly performs a differential comparison between DS-out' and DS-in, while ignoring data on the assigned CAP-2 PIDs. This configuration can be realized by replacing the combiner 610 and packet filter 615 with an appropriate bit-wise comparison function. If a difference is detected between DS-out' and DS-in that is deemed to be significant (e.g., impacts the system), DS-out' can be passed through the input interface 570', thereby effectively bypassing DS-in, the corrupt stream.

While either approach is feasible, the packet filter 615 is believed to be simpler to implement and less computationally intensive than the comparison approach.

It should now be appreciated that the present invention provides a system for streaming encrypted CA

data from a primary or master conditional access provider (CAP) to one or more secondary CAPs. There is no need for the secondary CAP to request the CWs on an as-needed basis. Moreover, the CWs for a current
5 crypto-period and a number of future crypto-periods are provided in a "sliding window" to allow the secondary CAP to begin preparing its CA data in advance.

In a non-real-time embodiment, program data is pre-encrypted, and the CA data is accumulated and
10 synchronized with the encrypted program data, e.g., at a file server, for subsequent recovery. The secondary CAPs must prepare their CA data for the synchronization. As the program data is retrieved and forwarded to a user terminal, the CA data from the primary and secondary
15 CAPs is delivered along with the program data in synchronism with the segments of the program data to which the CA data applies.

The invention can be used in any packet-based distribution system, including virtual private networks
20 such as an Ethernet, a SONET, and so forth.

Although the invention has been described in connection with various specific embodiments, those skilled in the art will appreciate that numerous adaptations and modifications may be made thereto
25 without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for enabling a primary conditional access provider (CAP) and at least one secondary CAP to provide conditional access (CA) data in respective different formats to control access to at least one data service, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing, at the primary CAP, first CA data in a first format for encrypting the at least one data service during a plurality of successive crypto-periods, and time data for identifying the successive crypto-periods;

(b) providing the first CA data and the time data from the primary CAP to the at least one secondary CAP;

wherein the at least one secondary CAP is responsive to the first CA data and time data for providing second CA data in a different, second format for the successive crypto-periods; and

(c) providing a data stream comprising the at least one encrypted data service and first and second CA data to user terminals, including at least a first user terminal that is compatible with the first CA data, and a second user terminal that is compatible with the second CA data.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein;
the time data indicates respective start times of the crypto-periods.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein:
the time data designates absolute times of the crypto-periods.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein:
the time data designates relative times of the
crypto-periods in relation to a reference time of the at
least one data service.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein:
the first CA data for each crypto-period is
provided to the at least one secondary CAP with a lead
time of at least one crypto-period.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein:
the lead time is responsive to a required
processing time of the at least one secondary CAP.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein:
the first CA data and time data are provided to the
at least one secondary CAP in successive packets, each
packet comprising first CA data and time data for a
plurality of crypto-periods.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein:
the plurality of crypto-periods comprise a current
crypto-period and future crypto-periods.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein:
the first CA data comprises a control word for each
of the crypto-periods.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the first CA data and time data are streamed in real-time from the primary CAP to the at least one secondary CAP without being requested therefrom.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein:

the at least one secondary CAP provides its second CA data essentially in real-time after receipt of the first CA data and time data thereat.

12. The method of claim 1, comprising the further steps of:

synchronizing the first CA data and the second CA data with the at least one encrypted data service; and

storing the first and second synchronized CA data and the at least one encrypted data service for subsequent retrieval to provide said data stream.

13. The method of claim 12, comprising the further step of:

retrieving the first and second synchronized CA data and the at least one encrypted data service to provide said data stream in response to a user request.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein:

the user request is provided as part of a video-on-demand service.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the primary CAP provides a program identifier to the at least one secondary CAP to inform the at least one secondary CAP that the first CA data and the time data are associated with the at least one data service.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the first CA data and time data are provided from the primary CAP to the at least one secondary CAP via a CA data delivery network.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the first and second CA data are provided to a message insertion subsystem out-of-band from the encrypted data service to form said data stream.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the first and second CA data are provided to a message insertion subsystem in-band with the encrypted data service to form said data stream.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the first CA data and the time data are provided from the primary CAP to a plurality of secondary CAPs, each of which is responsive to the first CA data and time data for providing CA data in different, respective formats for the successive crypto-periods;

the data stream comprises the CA data in the different, respective formats; and

the user terminals include respective user terminals that are compatible with the different, respective formats.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the first CA data, time data, and encrypted data service are provided in a first data stream from the primary CAP to the at least one secondary CAP for

insertion of the second CA data, and a corresponding second data stream is returned to the primary CAP for formation of said data stream that is provided to the user terminals.

21. The method of claim 20, comprising the further steps of:

retaining a copy of the first data stream at the primary CAP;

filtering, at the primary CAP, the second data stream that is returned from the at least one secondary CAP to recover the second CA data; and

combining the recovered second CA data with the retained copy of the first data stream to form said data stream that is provided to the user terminals.

22. The method of claim 20, comprising the further steps of:

retaining a copy of the first data stream at the primary CAP; and

comparing, at the primary CAP, the second data stream to the retained copy of the first data stream to determine a deviation therebetween.

23. The method of claim 22, comprising the further step of:

if the deviation is detected, using the retained copy of the first data stream, which does not contain the second CA data, to form said data stream that is provided to the user terminals.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein:

the second data stream is formed by overwriting the first CA data with corresponding second CA data in corresponding packets of the first data stream.

25. The method of claim 1, wherein:
the first CA data comprises entitlement control messages.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein:
the primary CAP first and at least one secondary CAPs are provided at a headend.

27. The method of claim 1, wherein the first CA data is provided from the primary CAP to the at least one secondary CAP in an encrypted form, comprising the further step of:

providing data to the at least one secondary CAP for decrypting the encrypted first CA data.

28. An apparatus for enabling a primary conditional access provider (CAP) and at least one secondary CAP to provide conditional access (CA) data in respective different formats to control access to at least one data service, comprising:

a primary CAP for providing first CA data in a first format for encrypting the at least one data service during a plurality of successive crypto-periods, and time data for identifying the successive crypto-periods;

means for communicating the first CA data and the time data from the primary CAP to the at least one secondary CAP;

wherein the at least one secondary CAP is responsive to the first CA data and time data for providing second CA data in a different, second format for the successive crypto-periods; and

means for providing a data stream comprising the at least one encrypted data service and first and second CA data to user terminals, including at least a first user terminal that is compatible with the first CA data, and a second user terminal that is compatible with the second CA data.

ABSTRACT

A system for streaming encrypted conditional access (CA) data, such as control words, from a primary or master conditional access provider (CAP) to one or more secondary CAPs. The primary CAP encrypts content (program data) that is to be access-controlled, such as a television program, according to the associated CA data. A first group of user terminals is compatible with the CA data of the primary CAP. The CA data is then provided to the secondary CAPs to provide corresponding CA data for the content in the secondary CAPs' associated formats for compatibility with other groups of terminals. The invention can be used in any packet-based distribution system, including a broadband television network headend, and avoids the need for the secondary CAPs to request the control words on an as-needed basis. Moreover, the CA data for a current crypto-period and a number of future crypto-periods are provided in a "sliding window" to allow the secondary CAP to begin preparing its CA data in advance. Moreover, the CA data can be provided to the secondary CAPs on a real-time basis, or well beforehand when the content is pre-encrypted and stored, e.g., at a file server.

P A T E N T

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HUTCHINGS, et al.

Application No.:

Filed: Herewith

For: **A SYSTEM TO DELIVER ENCRYPTED ACCESS CONTROL INFORMATION
TO SUPPORT INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN DIGITAL INFORMATION
PROCESSING/CONTROL EQUIPMENT**

DRAWING REVIEW BRANCH

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

June 2, 2000

By:



Cathy Dunne

TRANSMITTAL OF FORMAL DRAWING(S)

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are six (6) sheets of formal drawings for filing in the above-referenced patent application.

Please advise the undersigned attorney if correction is necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



Barry R. Lipsitz
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 28,637
755 Main Street, Bldg. No. 8
Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 459-0200

Date: June 2, 2000
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: GIC-599

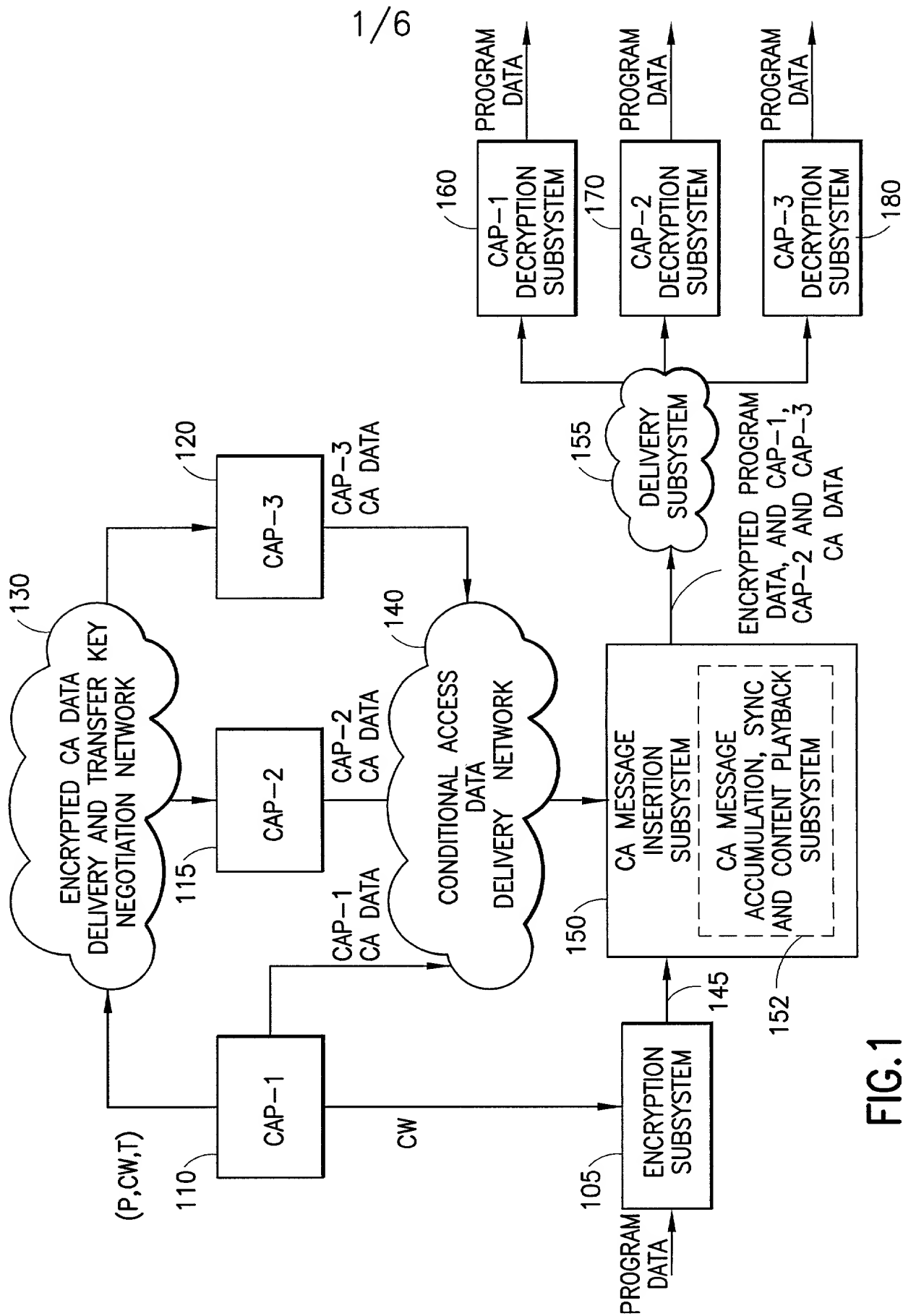


FIG.1

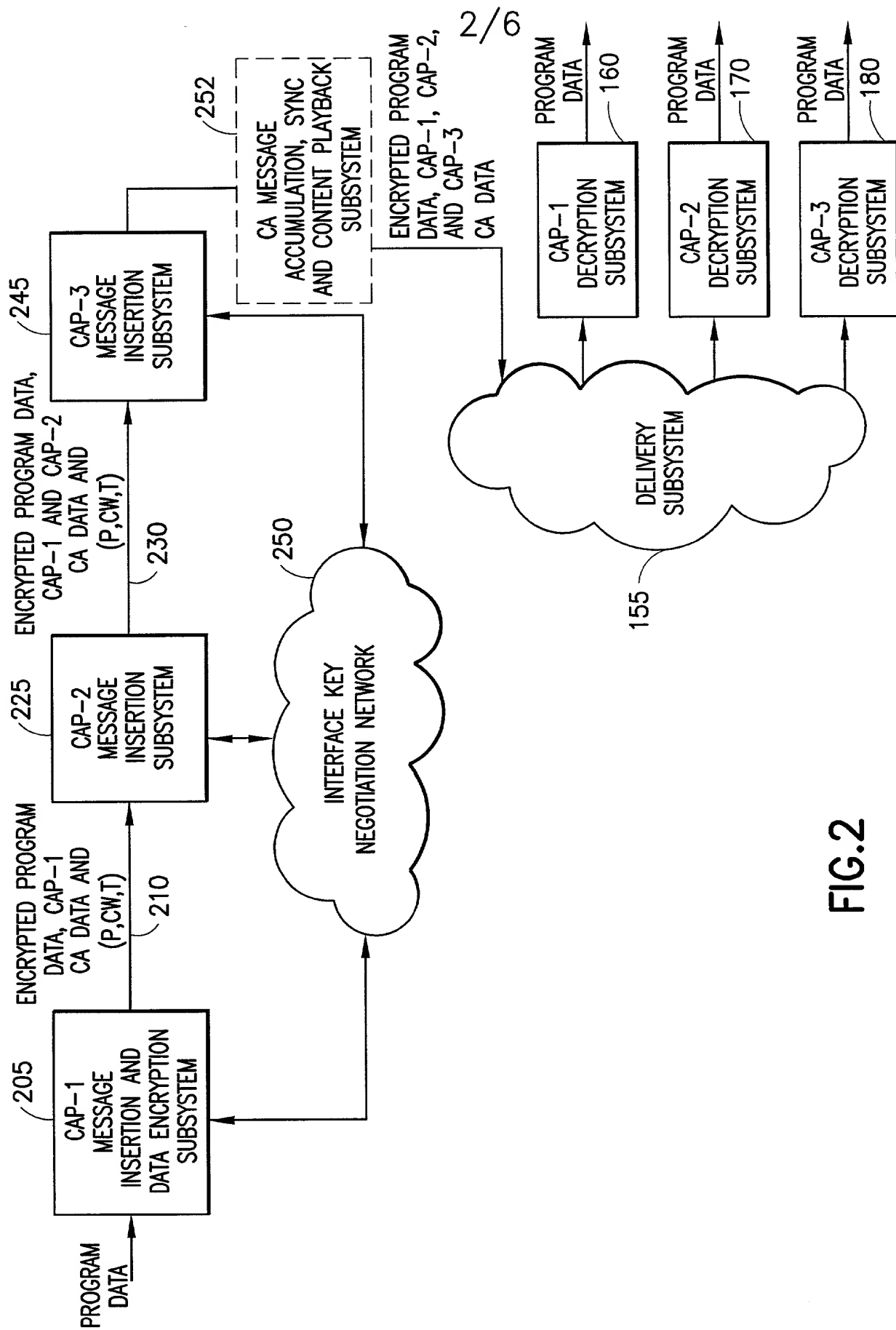


FIG.2

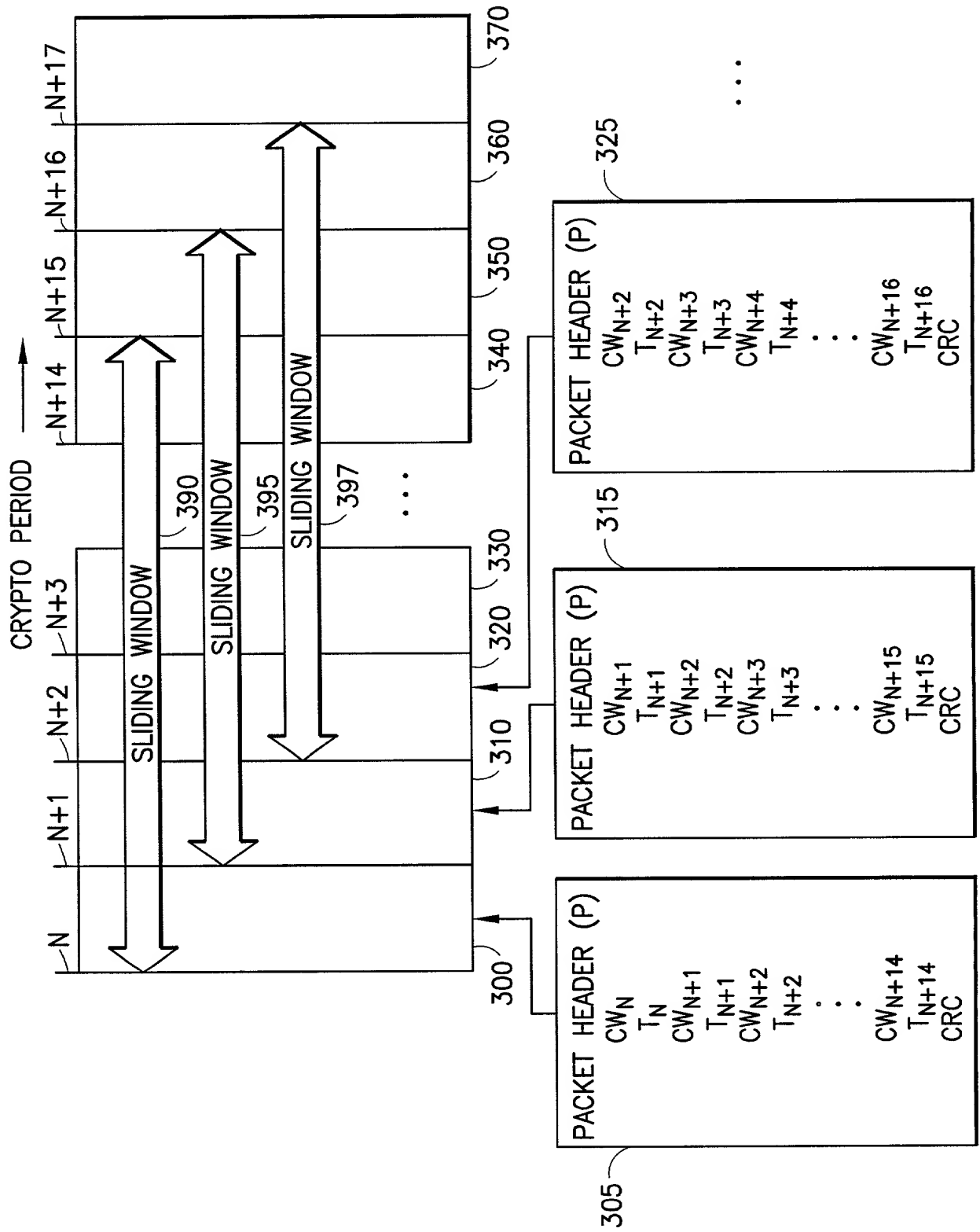


FIG.3

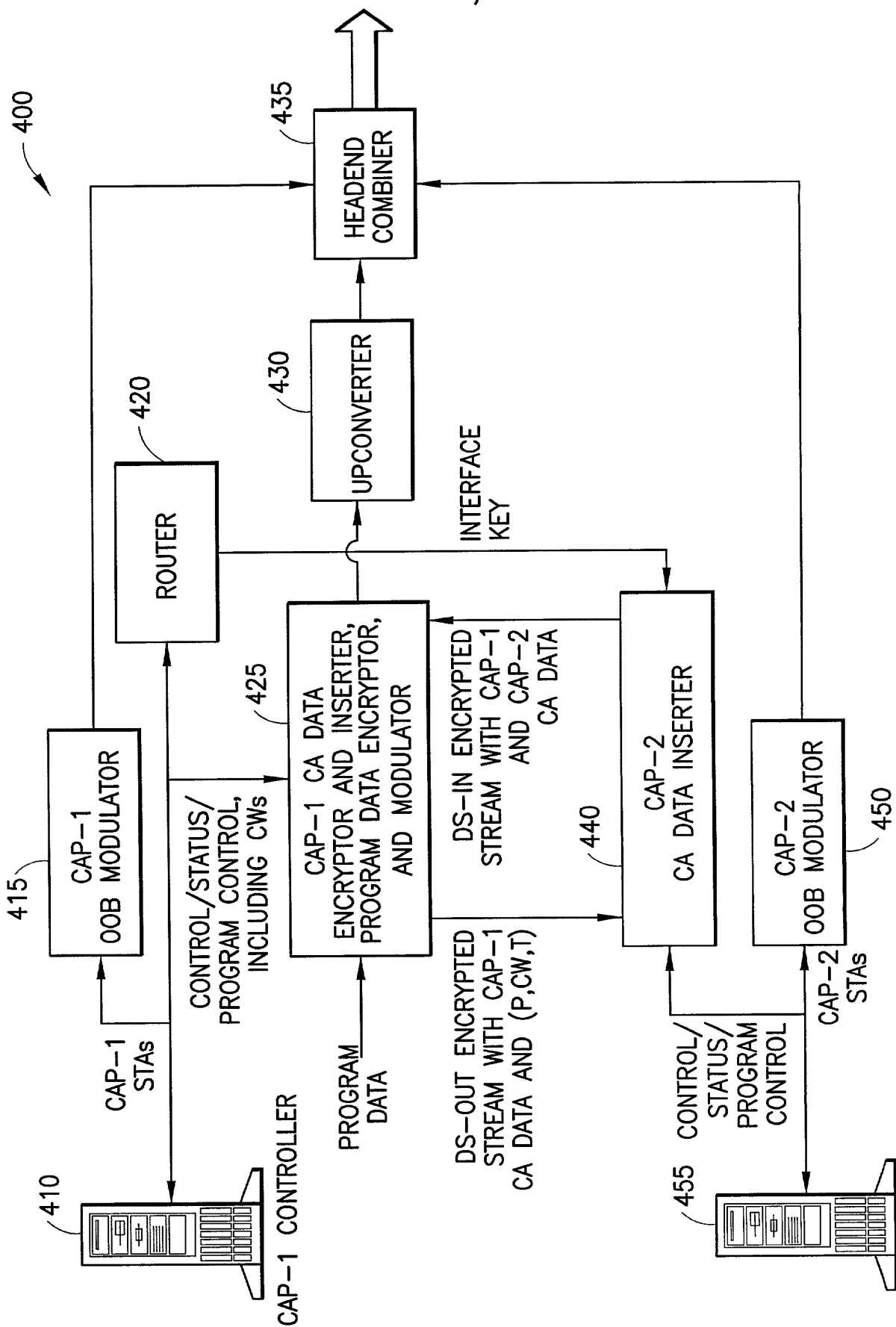


FIG. 4

CAP-2 CONTROLLER

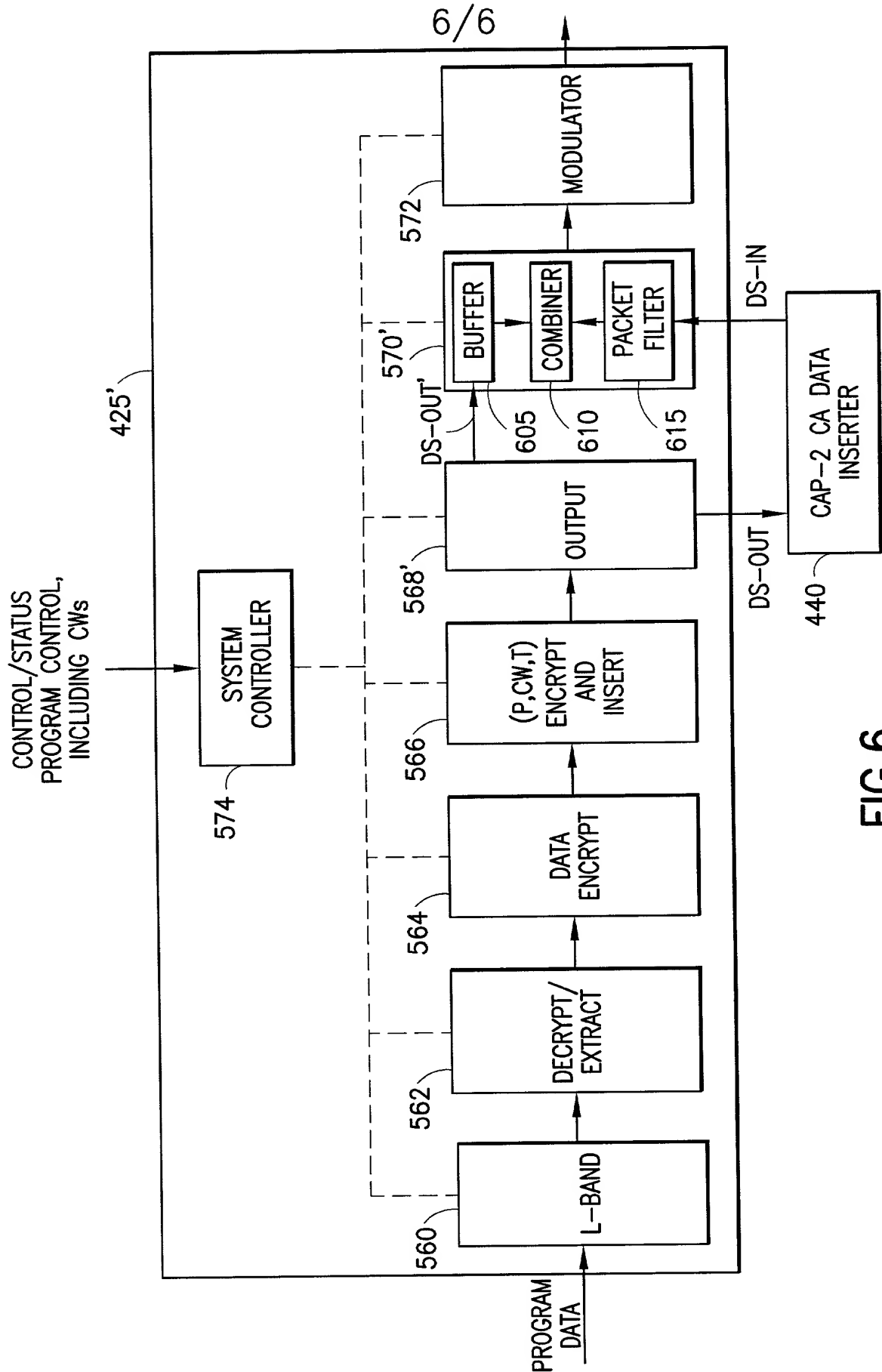


FIG.6

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND PETITION

Attorney Docket No.: GIC-599

Page 1 of 3

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

A SYSTEM TO DELIVER ENCRYPTED ACCESS CONTROL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN DIGITAL INFORMATION PROCESSING/CONTROL EQUIPMENT

the specification of which:

☒ is attached hereto
☐ was filed on _____ as United States Application Number _____ or
PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to be material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

			Priority Claimed
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ Month/Day/Year Filed	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ Month/Day/Year Filed	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s); or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application
or PCT Parent Number

Parent Filing Date
(MM/DD/YYYY)

Parent Patent Number
(if applicable)

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND PETITION

Attorney Docket No.: GIC-599

Page 2 of 3

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

And I hereby appoint: Barry R. Lipsitz, Registration No. 28,637, Ralph F. Hoppin, Registration No. 38,494 and Douglas M. McAllister, Registration No. 37,886, all of the firm of Barry R. Lipsitz, Attorney at Law, 755 Main Street, Bldg. 8, Monroe, Connecticut 06468, Telephone (203) 459-0200, my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Wherefore I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, and I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

Full name of sole or first inventor: **George T. HUTCHINGS**

Inventor's Signature George T. Hutchings Date: May 17, 2000

Residence: Doylestown Pennsylvania Citizenship: U.S.A.
(City) (State or Foreign Country)

Post Office Address: 153 Wood View Drive Doylestown Pennsylvania 18901, U.S.A.
(Post Office Address) (City) (State & Zip Code/Country)

Full name of second inventor: **Eric SPRUNK**

Inventor's Signature _____ Date: _____

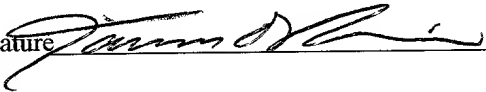
Residence: Carlsbad California Citizenship: U.S.A.
(City) (State or Foreign Country)

Post Office Address: 6421 Cayenne Lane Carlsbad California 92009, U.S.A.
(Post Office Address) (City) (State & Zip Code/Country)

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND PETITION

Attorney Docket No.: GIC-599
Page 3 of 3

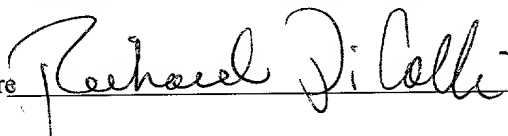
Full name of third inventor: **Lawrence D. VINCE**

Inventor's Signature  Date: 5-17-00

Residence: Lansdale Pennsylvania Citizenship: U.S.A.
(City) (State or Foreign Country)

Post Office Address: 114 Aileen Drive Lansdale Pennsylvania 19446, U.S.A.
(Post Office Address) (City) (State & Zip Code/Country)


Full name of fourth inventor: **Richard DiCOLLI**

Inventor's Signature  Date: 5/23/00

Residence: Broomhall Pennsylvania Citizenship: U.S.A.
(City) (State or Foreign Country)

Post Office Address: 208 Harvest Lane Broomhall Pennsylvania 19008,
U.S.A. (Post Office Address) (City) RDC (State & Zip Code/Country)

Full name of fifth inventor: **Mark DePIETRO**

Inventor's Signature  Date: 5/18/00

Residence: Harleysville Pennsylvania Citizenship: U.S.A.
(City) (State or Foreign Country)

Post Office Address: 655 Brampton Lane Harleysville Pennsylvania 19438,
U.S.A. (Post Office Address) (City) (State & Zip Code/Country)

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND PETITION

Attorney Docket No.: CTC-89-

Page 16

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**A SYSTEM TO DELIVER ENCRYPTED ACCESS CONTROL INFORMATION
TO SUPPORT INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN REMOTE INFORMATION
PROCESSING/CONTROL EQUIPMENT**

the specification of which:

- ☒ is attached hereto
☐ was filed on _____ as United States Application Number _____ or
PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to be material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

			Priority Claimed
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ Month/Day/Year Filed	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ Month/Day/Year Filed	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application
or PCT Parent Number

Parent Filing Date
(MM/DD/YYYY)

Parent Patent Number
(if applicable)

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND PETITION

Attorney Docket No.: GIC-599

Page 2 of 3

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

And I hereby appoint: Barry R. Lipsitz, Registration No. 28,637, Ralph F. Hoppin, Registration No. 38,494 and Douglas M. McAllister, Registration No. 37,886, all of the firm of Barry R. Lipsitz, Attorney at Law, 755 Main Street, Bldg. 8, Monroe, Connecticut 06468, Telephone (203) 459-0200, my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Wherefore I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, and I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

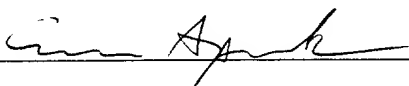
Full name of sole or first inventor: **George T. HUTCHINGS**

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____

Residence: Doylestown Pennsylvania Citizenship: U.S.A.
(City) (State or Foreign Country)

Post Office Address: 153 Wood View Drive Doylestown Pennsylvania 18901, U.S.A.
(Post Office Address) (City) (State & Zip Code/Country)

Full name of second inventor: **Eric SPRUNK**

Inventor's Signature  Date: 5/15/00

Residence: Carlsbad California Citizenship: U.S.A.
(City) (State or Foreign Country)

Post Office Address: 6421 Cayenne Lane Carlsbad California 92009, U.S.A.
(Post Office Address) (City) (State & Zip Code/Country)

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND PETITION

Attorney Docket No.: GIC-599

Page 3 of 3

Full name of third inventor: **Lawrence D. VINCE**

Inventor's Signature _____ Date: _____

Residence: **Lansdale** **Pennsylvania** Citizenship: **U.S.A.**
(City) (State or Foreign Country)

Post Office Address: **114 Aileen Drive** **Lansdale** **Pennsylvania 19446, U.S.A.**
(Post Office Address) (City) (State & Zip Code/Country)

Full name of fourth inventor: **Richard DiCOLLI**

Inventor's Signature _____ Date: _____

Residence: **Broomhall** **Pennsylvania** Citizenship: **U.S.A.**
(City) (State or Foreign Country)

Post Office Address: **208 Harvest Lane** **Broomhall** **Pennsylvania 19008, U.S.A.**
(Post Office Address) (City) (State & Zip Code/Country)

Full name of fifth inventor: **Mark DePIETRO**

Inventor's Signature _____ Date: _____

Residence: **Harleysville** **Pennsylvania** Citizenship: **U.S.A.**
(City) (State or Foreign Country)

Post Office Address: **655 Brampton Lane** **Harleysville** **Pennsylvania 19438, U.S.A.**
(Post Office Address) (City) (State & Zip Code/Country)